

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12323 01 OF 02 041721Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SY-05 IO-13 /072 W

----- 003231

O P 041529Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7191

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 12323

USIA FOR IOP/ IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, ASEC

SUBJECT: LITGAZ ON THE "CIA PROVOCATION"

REF: MOSCOW 12034

1. SUMMARY. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (LITGAZ) AUGUST 4  
CARRIES A LENGTHY, HARD-HITTING ARTICLE BY MOSCOW-BASED  
CORRESPONDENT V. VALENTINOV WHICH PURPORTS TO GIVE "THE  
DIRTY DETAILS" OF THE ALLEGED CIA RECRUITMENT ATTEMPT  
AGAINST SMUN SECOND SECRETARY KHARCHENKO (REFTEL). HIGHLIGHTS:

--THE TWO CIA AGENTS WHO ATTEMPTED TO RECRUIT KHARCHENKO  
WERE "MISTER BRYANT" FROM WASHINGTON AND "BOB", WHO WAS  
YOUNGER AND MORE JUNIOR;

--THEY ALLEGEDLY TOLD KHARCHENKO THAT "MISTER BUSH PER-  
SONALLY" AND HIS AGENCY WOULD APPRECIATE KHARCHENKO'S  
INFORMING THE CIA ABOUT THE USSR'S SINCERITY REGARDING  
DETENTE (ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION HE WOULD BE ABLE  
TO OBTAIN IN HIS CAPACITY AS AMBASSADOR MALIK'S  
AIDE), IN RETURN FOR WHICH THE CIA WOULD FEED HIM

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 12323 01 OF 02 041721Z

INFORMATION WHICH WOULD BOOST HIS CAREER;

--THEY SAID THEY COULD RUIN HIS CAREER, INDIRECTLY  
THREATENED TO KILL KHARCHENKO, THEN TOLD HIM HE HAD  
UNTIL JULY 19 TO MAKE UP HIS MIND;

--KHARCHENKO REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO HIS SMUN SUPERIORS  
THAT EVENING, AND ARRIVED IN THE USSR ON JULY 18;

--HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN, WHO LEFT FOR MOSCOW  
ON JULY 21, WERE FOLLOWED ON JULY 19 BY TWO "GOONS", SUB-  
JECTED TO HARASSING PHONE CALLS, AND WERE HARASSED BY  
CIA AGENTS AT THE AIRPORT JULY 21.

2. VALENTINOV'S ARTICLE APPEARS ON PAGE 15 OF LITGAZ,  
UNDER THE LARGE HEADLINE "DIRTY TRICKSTERS" AND A SMALLER  
HEADING "HOW OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
AGENCY 'FACILITATE' RELAXATION OF TENSION." THE ARTICLE  
IS PREFACED BY A BRIEF EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT "RECENTLY  
THE USSR MFA MADE AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION TO THE U.S.  
EMBASSY IN MOSCOW IN CONNECTION WITH AN OUTRAGEOUS PROVOCA-  
TION BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AGAINST SOVIET  
DIPLOMAT O.V. KHARCHENKO. THIS IS WHAT OUR CORRESPONDENT  
V. VALENTINOV, WHO RECENTLY MET WITH OLEG VASIL'EVICH  
KHARCHENKO, HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE MATTER."

3. VALENTINOV BEGINS BY RECALLING PUBLICITY GIVEN BY  
U.S. MEDIA TO VARIOUS "CIA SCANDALS" AND SAYS THAT  
MEDIA HAVE BEEN SILENT ABOUT THE KHARCHENKO INCIDENT,  
PROBABLY BECAUSE THIS MIGHT DESTROY THE MYTH ABOUT  
SOVIET SPIES IN THE U.S. THAT "TIME" AND OTHER MEDIA  
ARE FOND OF SPREADING. THE CIA AND ITS DIRECTOR BUSH  
HAVE BEEN SILENT BECAUSE THEY HAVE ENOUGH DIRT TO COPE  
WITH AS IT IS.

4. VALENTINOV THEN EXPLAINS HOW KHARCHENKO MET NASSAU  
DETECTIVES O'BRIAN AND O'ROURK, NOTING THAT KHARCHENKO WAS  
AMBASSADOR MALIK'S AIDE AND THEREFORE, TOGETHER WITH  
SOVIET DOCTOR V.S. KUL'KOV, OCCUPIED A HOSPITAL ROOM  
NEXT TO MALIK'S WHILE THE LATTER WAS RECOVERING FROM IN-  
JURIES SUSTAINED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT. THE DETECTIVES ARE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03    MOSCOW 12323 01 OF 02 041721Z

DESCRIBED AS SYMPATHETIC INDIVIDUALS WHOM KHARCHENKO GOT TO  
KNOW WHILE THEY WERE ON GUARD DUTY AT THE HOSPITAL, AND WHO  
GOOD-NATURADLY INVITED KHARCHENKO TO A BAR NEAR THE HOSPITAL  
TO CELEBRATE MALIK'S RELEASE.

5. THREE MONTHS LATER, ON JULY 16, KHARCHENKO UNEXPECTEDLY  
RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM ONE OF THE DETECTIVES, WHO  
INVITED KHARCHENKO TO A REUNION AT THE HILTON HOTEL.0

KHARCHENKO ACCEPTED, MET THE DETECTIVE IN THE HOTEL LOBBY, AND WENT TO THE TWO DETECTIVES' HOTEL ROOM OSTENSIBLY TO MEET SOME OF THEIR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES. AT 6:00 P.M. TWO MEN APPEARED IN THE ROOM WHO INTRODUCED THEMSELVES AS "MISTER BRYANT FROM WASHINGTON" (DESCRIBED AS TALL, SHORT HAIRCUT, DEEP-SET EYES, POCK-MARKED FACE) AND "BOB" (YOUNGER, APPARENTLY JUNIOR IN RANK). BOB THEN USHERED THE TWO DETECTIVES OUT OF THE ROOM.

6. BRYANT AND BOB SEATED KHARCHENKO IN A CORNER OF THE ROOM, CUTTING HIM OFF FROM THE DOOR, AND ANNOUNCED THEY WERE FROM "CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE" AND KNEW ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM AND HIS DUTIES AT SMUN. BRYANT ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT THE CIA WAS MOST INTERESTED IN ANYTHING THAT HAD THE SLIGHTEST RELATIONSHIP TO "DETENTE", AND SINCE KHARCHENKO HAD ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION IN SMUN, "MISTER BUSH PERSONALLY" AND HIS AGENCY WOULD APPRECIATE KHARCHENKO'S ASSISTANCE IN PASSING ALONG THIS INFORMATION. BOB REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "WE NEED ONLY TO KNOW HOW SINCERELY YOUR GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING THE POLICY OF DETENTE," AND "THE BOSS" ADDED "WE OF COURSE COULD USE ANY OTHER SORT OF FOREIGN POLICY INFORMATION."

7. THEN, VALENTINOV CONTINUES, BEGAN "OPERATION SEDUCTION" KHARCHENKO WAS OFFERED INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO HIS SUPERIORS AND WOULD BOOST HIS CAREER. WHEN KHARCHENKO INDICATED HE WOULD NOT COOPERATE, THE TWO MEN BEGAN TO THREATEN HIM: AT FIRST THEY TOLD HIM NOT TO MAKE A HASTY DECISION; THEN SAID THEY HAD ADEQUATE MEANS TO RUIN HIS CAREER; AND TALKED OF THROWING HIM OUT THE WINDOW. AFTER A SHORT PAUSE, BRYANT ALLEGEDLY SAID "BUT TODAY THIS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE. YOU HAVE UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 19, TO THINK THINGS OVER. AS YOU SAY IN RUSSIA, WE WILL  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 12323 01 OF 02 041721Z

SURVIVE UNTIL MONDAY."

8. KHARCHENKO THAT SAME DAY REPORTED TO HIS SMUN SUPERIORS WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED, ARRIVED IN THE USSR ON JULY 18 AND MET IN MOSCOW WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN ON JULY 22.

9. ACCORDING TO VALENTINOV, U.S. AGENTS EARLIER HAD SURREPTITIOUSLY ENTERED AND SEARCHED THE KHARCHENKO APARTMENT. IN ADDITION, AGENTS MORE THAN ONCE HAD DAMAGED THE TIRES OF KHARCHENKO'S PRIVATE CAR (AS WELL AS THE CARS OF OTHER SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN NEW YORK), ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION NEARLY CAUSING "CATASTROPHIC" ACCIDENTS. UPSET THAT KHARCHENKO HAD DISAPPEARED, BRYANT (SAYS VALENTINOV) FOCUSED HIS ATTENTION ON KHARCHENKO'S WIFE AND CHILDREN. TWO "GOONS" FOLLOWED THEM CONSTANTLY, EVEN INTO PLACES

WHERE MEN USUALLY FEEL OUT OF PLACE. THERE WERE ANONOMYOUS, THREATENING AND HARASSING PHONE CALLS AND OTHER MINOR DIRTY TRICKS. AND WHEN MRS. KHARCHENKO WENT TO THE AIR-PORT ON JULY 21, AGENTS OF THE CIA ATTEMPTED TO COMPLICATE HER PROCESSING SO THAT SHE WOULD MISS THE PLANE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12323 02 OF 02 041726Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SY-05 IO-13 /072 W

----- 003407

O P 041529Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7192

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 12323

USIA FOR IOP/ IBS, IPS, IEU

10. IT WILL BE INTERESTING, VALENTINOV CONCLUDES, TO SEE HOW "TIME," "THE NEW YORK POST" AND OTHER U.S. NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES--WHICH CALL THEMSELVES OBJECTIVE AND UN-CORRUPTED--WRITE ABOUT THIS EPISODE.

11. COMMENT. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THIS ACCOUNT AND THE BARE-BONES APPROACH OF THE MFA'S PROTEST NOTE, WHICH WAS READ AND HANDED OVER IN A LOW KEY MANNER, IS NOTWEWORTHY. IT IS ALSO CURIOUS THAT MALIK, NOT KNOWN FOR HIS RESTRAINT IN SUCH MATTERS, HAS NOT PROTESTED THE INCIDENT TO USUN. ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION WOULD BE THAT THE MFA DECIDED TO HANDLE THE MATTER WITH RESTRAINT, BUT HARDLINERS--PRESUMABLY WITH MALIK'S BLESSINGS--WON PERMISSION TO PRINT THE VALENTINOV ACCOUNT IN LITGAZ. VALENTINOV'S MENTION OF SURVEILLANCE, DAMAGE TO AUTOMOBILES, AND HARASSING PHONE CALLS COULD CONCEIVABLY PRESAGE RENEWED HARASSMENT HERE. SO FAR ALL

HAS BEEN QUIET.

12. WHILE THIS ARTICLE MAY IN PART BE EXPLAINED BY THE  
GENERALLY SOUR TONE OF RECENT SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF  
THE U.S., IT PROBABLY ALSO REFLECTS A SOVIET DESIRE TO RE-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02    MOSCOW 12323 02 OF 02 041726Z

TALIAATE AGAINST U.S. MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF SOVIET ESPIONAGE  
ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. THE PIECE, OF COURSE, IS ALSO IN  
LINE WITH THE SOVIET CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE CIA. AS  
WITH THE RECENT ARTICLES ON U.S. JOURNALISTS WREN, FRIENDLY,  
AND KRIMSKY, LITGAZ PROBABLY WAS SELECTED BECAUSE THE  
SOVIETS CAN CLAIM IT IS "NONGOVERNMENTAL" (AS THE ORGAN  
OF THE SOVIET WRITER'S UNION) AND BECAUSE IT IS SOMEWHAT  
COMPARABLE TO "TIME" AND "NEWSWEEK", WHICH THE SOVIETS  
HAVE PARTICULARLY CRITICIZED FOR CARRYING ARTICLES ON SOVIET  
ESPIONAGE.

13. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES, EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED  
RECEIPT OF PROTEST NOTE FROM MFA AND TRANSMITTAL  
OF CONTENTS TO DEPARTMENT, BUT HAS REFERRED FURTHER  
QUESTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT. AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS NOW  
ASKING ABOUT U.S. RESPONSE TO NOTE. REQUEST PRESS GUID-  
ANCE.  
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT, ALLEGATIONS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MOSCOW12323  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760300-0742  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760888/aaaaczeb.tel  
**Line Count:** 252  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MOSCOW 12034  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 FEB 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LITGAZ ON THE "CIA PROVOCATION"  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ASEC, UR, US, CIA, (KHARCHENKO, OLEG VASIL'EVICH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006